

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas, wherein the plurality of general programme areas are programme areas that if complied with are of benefit to a member stricken with any disease managed by the disease management programme and wherein the plurality of specific programme areas are programme areas that are determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with some but not all of the diseases managed by the disease management programme;

awarding points to a member for each of the general programme areas in which the member participates, the points being allocated to members based on a multi-level system, including:

a first level, wherein the member is awarded points for merely taking part in a programme area,

a second level, wherein the member is awarded a bonus set of points in addition to the points awarded in the first level in response to participating in all programme areas associated with a disease with which the member is afflicted, and

a third level, wherein the member is awarded points for attaining a minimum level for a measurable of a programme area associated with a disease with which the member is afflicted;

awarding points to a member for each of the specific programme areas in which the member participates, only if the member is afflicted with a disease to which the specific programme area in which the member participates has been determined to be of particular benefit;

calculating a total number of points awarded to the member, and

allocating a reward to the member if the total number of points awarded to the member accumulates to a predetermined amount of points.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein points are only awarded to the member if the member participates in all the programme areas which are associated with the disease or diseases with which the member is afflicted.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein additional points are awarded to the member if the member participates in all of the programme areas which are associated with the disease or diseases with which the member is afflicted.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the general programme areas are some of diet, exercise, smoking and education.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the specific programme areas are one or more of blood pressure, flow volume loop measurement, influenza vaccine, pneumococcal vaccine, cholesterol and long term glucose control.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further including the steps of:
defining a measurable within at least one of the general or specific programme areas so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;

defining a minimum level of the measurable, which minimum level indicates a minimum required level of member performance within the at least one programme area; and

awarding points to a member if the member obtains the defined minimum level of a measurable for the at least one programme area only if the member is afflicted with a disease which is associated with that particular programme area.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) A method ~~of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, the method comprising the steps of according to claim 1, further including:~~

defining a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas, wherein the plurality of general programme areas are programme areas that if compiled with will be of benefit to a member stricken with any disease managed by the disease management programme and wherein the plurality of specific programme areas are programme areas that are determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with some but not all of the diseases managed by the disease management programme;

defining a measurable within each of the general and specific programme areas so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;

defining a minimum level for each measurable, which minimum level indicates a minimum required level of member performance within each of the programme areas;

awarding points to a member if the member obtains the minimum level of a measurable for a particular programme area only if the member is afflicted with a disease which is associated with that particular programme area; and

allocating a reward to the member if the points awarded to the member accumulate to a predetermined amount.

9. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 8 wherein, additional points are awarded to the member if they obtain the minimum level of a measurable for all of the programme areas which are associated with the disease with which the member is afflicted.

10-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Withdrawn) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas, wherein the plurality of general programme areas are programme areas that if compiled with will be of benefit to a member stricken with any disease managed by the disease management programme and wherein the plurality of specific programme areas are programme areas that are determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with some but not all of the diseases managed by the disease management programme;

awarding points to a member for each of the programme areas in which the member participates, only if the member is predisposed to being afflicted with a disease which is associated with that particular programme area; and

allocating a reward to the member if the points awarded to the member accumulate to a predetermined amount.

13. (Withdrawn) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas, wherein the plurality of general programme areas are programme areas that if compiled with will be of benefit to a member stricken with any disease managed by the disease management programme and wherein the plurality of specific programme areas are programme areas that are determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with some but not all of the diseases managed by the disease management programme;

defining a measurable within each of the general and specific programme areas so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;

defining a minimum level for each measurable, which minimum level indicates a minimum required level of member performance within each of the programme areas; awarding points to a member if the member obtains the minimum level of a measurable for a particular programme area only if the member is predisposed to being afflicted with a disease which is associated with that particular programme area; and

allocating a reward to the member if the points awarded to the member accumulate to a predetermined amount.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the reward is related to the amount of points accumulated by the member.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the reward is a cash payout or special options on services.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the services are one or more of airplane tickets, hotel accommodation and car rentals.

17-18. (Canceled)

19. (Withdrawn, Currently amended) A method according to claim [[18]] 24, wherein ~~the services are~~ points may be redeemed for one or more of airplane tickets, hotel accommodation and car rentals.

20. (Withdrawn) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the disease management programme, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a measurable within an exercise programme area as being two fitness assessments per year, at least five months apart, so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;

defining a measurable within a smoking programme area as being a cotinine test, so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;

defining a measurable within an education programme area as being a questionnaire prepared by managers of the disease management programme, so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;

defining a minimum level of each measurable, which minimum level indicates a minimum required level of member performance within the programme area, the minimum level being:

for the exercise programme area, maintaining a predetermined level of fitness, for the smoking programme area, a negative cotinine test, and

for the education programme area, completing the questionnaire; and

awarding points to a member if the member obtains the defined minimum level of the measurable for a particular programme area only if the member is afflicted with a disease which is associated with a particular programme area.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, including the steps of:

defining a measurable within a pneumococcal vaccine programme area as being a pneumococcal vaccination, so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained, and in which the minimum level of member performance for the pneumococcal vaccine programme area is; receiving a pneumococcal vaccination once every five years; and

defining a measurable within a cholesterol programme area as being a cholesterol test once per year, so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained, and in which the minimum level of member performance for the cholesterol programme area is: a cholesterol level of less than a predetermined level.

22-23. (Canceled)

24. (New) A method of managing disease in a health program, comprising:

defining a set of diseases managed by the program;

defining at least one general set of activities, each set including at least one therapeutic activity beneficial with respect to a plurality of diseases in said set of diseases;

defining a plurality of specific sets of activities, each of said specific sets including at least one therapeutically beneficial activity directed to a specific disease in said set of diseases;

associating at least one general set of activities to at least one specific set of activities to form a combined set of activities;

awarding a first set of points to a participant who engages in at least one activity in a combined set of activities directed to a disease state of the participant;

awarding a second set of points to a participant only after the participant has engaged in all activities in a combined set of activities directed to a disease state of the participant;

awarding a third set of points to a participant who engages in all activities in a combined set of activities directed to a disease state of the participant, only after the participant meets a minimum measurable achievement with respect to at least one of the specific set of activities of said combined set of activities;

calculating a total number of points awarded to the member, and

allocating a reward to the member if the total number of points awarded to the member accumulates to a predetermined amount of points.

25. (New) The disease management program of claim 24, further including awarding a fourth set of points to a participant who engages in all activities in a specific set of activities directed to a disease of the participant, and the participant meets a minimum measurable achievement with respect to all of the specific set of activities directed to a disease state of the participant.

26. (New) The disease management program of claim 24, wherein a disease state of the participant is selected from the group consisting of predisposed to a disease, at high risk of having the disease, and having the disease.

27. (New) A method of managing disease in a health program, comprising:

defining a set of diseases managed by the program;

defining at least one general set of activities, each set including at least one therapeutic activity beneficial with respect to a plurality of diseases in said set of diseases, and including at least one therapeutic activity beneficial with respect to obesity, and at least one therapeutic activity beneficial with respect to addiction;

defining a plurality of specific sets of activities, each of said specific sets including at least one therapeutically beneficial activity directed to a specific disease in said set of diseases, at least one of said specific set of diseases not including obesity or addiction;

associating at least one general set of activities to at least one specific set of activities to form a combined set of activities;

awarding a first set of points to a participant who engages in at least one activity in a combined set of activities directed to a disease state of the participant;

awarding a second set of points to a participant only after the participant has engaged in all activities in a combined set of activities directed to a disease state of the participant;

calculating a total number of points awarded to the member, and

allocating a reward to the member if the total number of points awarded to the member accumulates to a predetermined amount of points.